



NEWS RELEASE  
*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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October 6, 2009

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg, the Omaha Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

On October 5, 2009, Sheena James, age 27 of Omaha, was sentenced to 48 months in prison by Laurie Smith Camp, United States District Judge, following her conviction for involvement in the “straw purchase” of firearms. She was previously convicted of conspiracy to purchase firearms for prohibited persons.

On September 29, 2008, Deanthony Johnson was shot to death. Police began investigating the homicide and uncovered a gun at the victim’s residence. Omaha police traced the gun, a .45 caliber Taurus, back to Sheena James who had purchased the gun from Cabela’s on September 17, 2008. Ms. James was the victim’s ex-girlfriend.

During an interview with law enforcement, Ms. James admitted knowing Deanthony Johnson could not buy guns since he was a convicted felon. She stated she knew Johnson went to jail in July of 2000 for shooting someone and that he had received a sentence of 9-16 years. She also told officers that Johnson had accompanied her when buying guns. Specifically, Johnson had gone with her when she purchased the .45 caliber Taurus. Video from Cabela’s showed Johnson pointing to guns in the display case as James conducted the transaction to purchase the firearm.

Ms. James stated that she knew Johnson to be a “Crip” gang member. Johnson had told her he needed guns for protection when riding around Omaha. On October 28, 2008, police received permission from Ms. James to search her home. Officers discovered an ammunition box and two handgun cases.

**Name of Defendant:** Sheena James

**AKA:**

**Age:** 27

**City of residence:** Omaha

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty):** Conspiracy to purchase firearms for prohibited persons, 18 U.S.C. 371, up to 5 years prison, \$250,000 fine, 3 year term of supervised release and \$100 special assessment.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Omaha

**Location of Arrest:** n/a

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** n/a

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:** Emmanuel Jackson

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** On or about June 17, 2008 through September 17, 2008

**Federal Arrest Date:** December 30, 2008

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** December 17, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** December 31, 2008

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** July 13, 2009

**Sentencing Date:** October 5, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** N/A

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable Judge Gossett

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:**

**In Continuous Custody Since:** December 30, 2008

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Judge Smith-Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** SLD